UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK CHRISTOPHER WOZNIAK, Plaintiff, V. WARNER BROS. ENTERTAINMENT, INC., Defendants. Civil Action No. 22-cv-08969 (PAE) -----X DC COMICS, Third-Party Plaintiff, V. CHRISTOPHER WOZNIAK, Third-Party Defendant. July 17, 2023 10:00 a.m.

EXAMINATION of Paul Levitz, pursuant to Subpoena, held at the above time and place before Larin Kaywood, a Notary Public within and for the State of New York.



	Page 2		Page 3
1	1490 1	1	- 490 0
2	APPEARANCES:	2	STIPULATIONS
3 4	R. TERRY PARKER LAW	3	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and
4	Attorneys for Plaintiff	4	between the attorneys for the respective parties
5	43 West 43rd Street, Suite 275	5	herein, that filing, sealing and certification,
6	New York, New York 10036 BY: TERRY PARKER, ESQ.	6	and the same are, hereby waived.
	EMAIL: TERRY@RTERRYPARKERLAW.COM	7	
7	EDOGG ZELNICK LEHDMAN (ZIGGH DG	8	IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED AND AGREED that all
8	FROSS, ZELNICK, LEHRMAN, & ZISSU, PC. Attorneys for Defendant	9	objections except as to the form of the
9	151 W 42nd Street	10	question, shall be reserved to the time of the
10	17th Fl New York, New York 10036	11	trial.
10	BY: JAMES WEINBERGER, ESQ.	12 13	IT IC ELIDTHED CTIDLE ATED AND A CREED 41-4-41-
11	ANDREW NIETES, ESQ.	14	IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED AND AGREED that the within deposition may be signed and sworn to by
12	Email: JWEINBERGER@FZLZ.COM	15	an officer authorized to administer an oath,
13		16	with the same force and effect as if signed and
14	* * *	17	sworn to before the Court.
15 16	* * *	18	
17		19	
18 19		20	* * *
20		21	
21		22	
22 23		23	
24		24	
25		25	
1		1	
2	Paul Levitz	2	Paul Levitz
3	PAUL LEVITZ, the witness herein,	3	I'll be asking you some questions; and the court
4	having been first duly sworn by a Notary Public	4	reporter will be writing those questions and you
5	in and of the State of New York, was examined	5	will be answering those questions to the best of
6	and testified as follows:	6	your ability.
7	EXAMINATION BY	7	She will be creating a transcript
8	MR. PARKER:	8	that will show my question and your attorney
9	Q. Would you please state your full	9	your attorney may object from time to time
10 11	name for the record? A. Paul Levitz.	10	unless they instruct you not too; is that understood?
12	Q. What is your current address?	12	A. Yes.
13	A. 7 Deforest Drive, Cortlandt Manor,	13	Q. In order for us to have a clean
14	New York 10567.	14	record for the questions and answer. I need you
15	Q. Good morning, Mr. Levitz.	15	to answer verbally, if you nod your head or say
16	A. Good morning.	16	yes, or you articulate it in some fashion, that
17	Q. My name is Terry Parker. I	17	doesn't get captured by the reporter.
18	represent the third-party defendants. You have	18	Please wait until I finish the
19	already entered your name into the record, so	19	question before you begin the answer, we don't
20	I'll scratch that question off of my list.	20	want an over lap of us speaking at the same time
21	Have you ever been deposed before?	21	that makes it a nightmare for the reporter; is
22	A. Many times.	22	that understood?
23 24	Q. Good. So you probably know some of	23	A. Yes.Q. If you need a break at any time, let
25	the basic rules and so I'll go through them any way. This is a question and answer format.	25	me know as long as there is no question pending
ے ے	way. This is a question and answer tormat.	ر کا	The know as long as there is no question penumg



1		1	
2	Paul Levitz	2	Paul Levitz
3	A. No.	3	of one and two, and they are also you are here
4	Q. We'll I'll represent to you this is	4	to testify the topic number nine that is DC
5	what we call a Notice of Deposition.	5	Comics policies and procedures for accepting
6	And this is kind of a formal	6	proposed material from freelance writers from
7	mechanism by which I tell your counsel that we	7	January 1st, 1990 to January of 2003.
8	are going to have the deposition today and in	8	MR. WEINBERGER: I confirm that, I
9	this deposition notice there is a list of	9	would like to note for the record DC perspective
10		10	
	definitions, and then there are a list of		I don't think you mentioned topic three, he is
11	topics?	11	testifying on the companies behalf on one two
12	A. Yes.	12	three and nine in the notice.
13	Q. It's my understanding that you're	13	But with respect to topics, one
14	here today to testify as to the DC acquisitions	14	through three, I understand that you're using
15	of the copyrights of the Batman copyright of	15	defined terms to delineate between them but from
16	material; is that accurate?	16	DC's perspective they are all one in the same.
17	A. I believe that is one of the things	17	I don't know if there is any need to
18	that they suggested that I was here for.	18	differentiate between topics one, two and three.
19	MR. WEINBERGER: I can confirm that.	19	MR. PARKER: I want to go over those
20	Q. And you are here to testify as DC	20	defined terms so that we know what we are
21	come imagines acquisitions of the copyrights of	21	talking about so that we something that is
22	the Batman characters; is that right?	22	specific and understood.
23	MR. WEINBERGER: I can confirm that	23	I'm going to get rid of this. Let's
24	for the witness.	24	move up and look at the deposition of these
25	Q. And you are here to discuss topics	25	terms. Let's refer now to the definition of
1		1	
2	Paul Levitz	2	Paul Levitz
	Paul Levitz number five in the first to determined Batman		Paul Levitz A. No.
2		2	
2	number five in the first to determined Batman	2 3	A. No.
2 3 4	number five in the first to determined Batman copyrighted material; do you see that?	2 3 4	A. No.Q. I'll represent to you that this is
2 3 4 5	number five in the first to determined Batman copyrighted material; do you see that? A. Yes. Q. And that is defined meaning words	2 3 4 5	A. No. Q. I'll represent to you that this is the third-party complaint by DC Comics Chris,
2 3 4 5 6	number five in the first to determined Batman copyrighted material; do you see that? A. Yes. Q. And that is defined meaning words referred to in the third-party complaint by DC	2 3 4 5 6	A. No. Q. I'll represent to you that this is the third-party complaint by DC Comics Chris, you are familiar with the lawsuit, or are you not?
2 3 4 5 6 7	number five in the first to determined Batman copyrighted material; do you see that? A. Yes. Q. And that is defined meaning words referred to in the third-party complaint by DC Comics at Batman writer material including the	2 3 4 5 6 7	A. No. Q. I'll represent to you that this is the third-party complaint by DC Comics Chris, you are familiar with the lawsuit, or are you
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	number five in the first to determined Batman copyrighted material; do you see that? A. Yes. Q. And that is defined meaning words referred to in the third-party complaint by DC Comics at Batman writer material including the words referred to in the third-party complaint.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	A. No. Q. I'll represent to you that this is the third-party complaint by DC Comics Chris, you are familiar with the lawsuit, or are you not? A. I am mildly familiar with the lawsuit.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	number five in the first to determined Batman copyrighted material; do you see that? A. Yes. Q. And that is defined meaning words referred to in the third-party complaint by DC Comics at Batman writer material including the	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	A. No. Q. I'll represent to you that this is the third-party complaint by DC Comics Chris, you are familiar with the lawsuit, or are you not? A. I am mildly familiar with the lawsuit. Q. I'm going to refer us now to
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	number five in the first to determined Batman copyrighted material; do you see that? A. Yes. Q. And that is defined meaning words referred to in the third-party complaint by DC Comics at Batman writer material including the words referred to in the third-party complaint. Is that a definition that you understand?	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	A. No. Q. I'll represent to you that this is the third-party complaint by DC Comics Chris, you are familiar with the lawsuit, or are you not? A. I am mildly familiar with the lawsuit. Q. I'm going to refer us now to paragraph nine. Paragraph nine states certain
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	number five in the first to determined Batman copyrighted material; do you see that? A. Yes. Q. And that is defined meaning words referred to in the third-party complaint by DC Comics at Batman writer material including the words referred to in the third-party complaint. Is that a definition that you understand? A. I have seen the words but I haven't	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	A. No. Q. I'll represent to you that this is the third-party complaint by DC Comics Chris, you are familiar with the lawsuit, or are you not? A. I am mildly familiar with the lawsuit. Q. I'm going to refer us now to paragraph nine. Paragraph nine states certain Batman's creation in 1939, certain other
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	number five in the first to determined Batman copyrighted material; do you see that? A. Yes. Q. And that is defined meaning words referred to in the third-party complaint by DC Comics at Batman writer material including the words referred to in the third-party complaint. Is that a definition that you understand? A. I have seen the words but I haven't seen the words in the exhibit that you're	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	A. No. Q. I'll represent to you that this is the third-party complaint by DC Comics Chris, you are familiar with the lawsuit, or are you not? A. I am mildly familiar with the lawsuit. Q. I'm going to refer us now to paragraph nine. Paragraph nine states certain Batman's creation in 1939, certain other related characters and other original
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	number five in the first to determined Batman copyrighted material; do you see that? A. Yes. Q. And that is defined meaning words referred to in the third-party complaint by DC Comics at Batman writer material including the words referred to in the third-party complaint. Is that a definition that you understand? A. I have seen the words but I haven't seen the words in the exhibit that you're referring to. MR. WEINBERGER: You can ask a question.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	A. No. Q. I'll represent to you that this is the third-party complaint by DC Comics Chris, you are familiar with the lawsuit, or are you not? A. I am mildly familiar with the lawsuit. Q. I'm going to refer us now to paragraph nine. Paragraph nine states certain Batman's creation in 1939, certain other related characters and other original fanciful elements have appeared in the Batman plotlines, including but not limited to Robin aka Dick Grayson, The Riddler aka Edward Nygma,
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 111 112 113 114 115 116	number five in the first to determined Batman copyrighted material; do you see that? A. Yes. Q. And that is defined meaning words referred to in the third-party complaint by DC Comics at Batman writer material including the words referred to in the third-party complaint. Is that a definition that you understand? A. I have seen the words but I haven't seen the words in the exhibit that you're referring to. MR. WEINBERGER: You can ask a question. Q. Let's stay with the term Batman	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	A. No. Q. I'll represent to you that this is the third-party complaint by DC Comics Chris, you are familiar with the lawsuit, or are you not? A. I am mildly familiar with the lawsuit. Q. I'm going to refer us now to paragraph nine. Paragraph nine states certain Batman's creation in 1939, certain other related characters and other original fanciful elements have appeared in the Batman plotlines, including but not limited to Robin aka Dick Grayson, The Riddler aka Edward Nygma, Commissioner James Gordon, Barbara Gordon aka
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 11 12 11 13 11 14 11 15 16 17 11 18 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19	number five in the first to determined Batman copyrighted material; do you see that? A. Yes. Q. And that is defined meaning words referred to in the third-party complaint by DC Comics at Batman writer material including the words referred to in the third-party complaint. Is that a definition that you understand? A. I have seen the words but I haven't seen the words in the exhibit that you're referring to. MR. WEINBERGER: You can ask a question. Q. Let's stay with the term Batman characters. I'm looking at number six now, the term Batman characters is defined as referenced in the third-party complaint; is it not? A. That is what it says. Q. I think it would help if we pull up	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	A. No. Q. I'll represent to you that this is the third-party complaint by DC Comics Chris, you are familiar with the lawsuit, or are you not? A. I am mildly familiar with the lawsuit. Q. I'm going to refer us now to paragraph nine. Paragraph nine states certain Batman's creation in 1939, certain other related characters and other original fanciful elements have appeared in the Batman plotlines, including but not limited to Robin aka Dick Grayson, The Riddler aka Edward Nygma, Commissioner James Gordon, Barbara Gordon aka Batgirl, Two Face, The Joker, Batman's butler Alfred, the Batmobile and the fictional city Gotham City, among many others (together, the "Batman Characters"). So I understand the Batman characters as being defined in this
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 11 12 11 13 11 14 11 15 16 17 11 18 19 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20	number five in the first to determined Batman copyrighted material; do you see that? A. Yes. Q. And that is defined meaning words referred to in the third-party complaint by DC Comics at Batman writer material including the words referred to in the third-party complaint. Is that a definition that you understand? A. I have seen the words but I haven't seen the words in the exhibit that you're referring to. MR. WEINBERGER: You can ask a question. Q. Let's stay with the term Batman characters. I'm looking at number six now, the term Batman characters is defined as referenced in the third-party complaint; is it not? A. That is what it says. Q. I think it would help if we pull up the third-party complaint?	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	A. No. Q. I'll represent to you that this is the third-party complaint by DC Comics Chris, you are familiar with the lawsuit, or are you not? A. I am mildly familiar with the lawsuit. Q. I'm going to refer us now to paragraph nine. Paragraph nine states certain Batman's creation in 1939, certain other related characters and other original fanciful elements have appeared in the Batman plotlines, including but not limited to Robin aka Dick Grayson, The Riddler aka Edward Nygma, Commissioner James Gordon, Barbara Gordon aka Batgirl, Two Face, The Joker, Batman's butler Alfred, the Batmobile and the fictional city Gotham City, among many others (together, the "Batman Characters"). So I understand the Batman characters as being defined in this paragraph is this a definition that you
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 11 12 11 13 11 14 11 15 16 17 11 18 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19	number five in the first to determined Batman copyrighted material; do you see that? A. Yes. Q. And that is defined meaning words referred to in the third-party complaint by DC Comics at Batman writer material including the words referred to in the third-party complaint. Is that a definition that you understand? A. I have seen the words but I haven't seen the words in the exhibit that you're referring to. MR. WEINBERGER: You can ask a question. Q. Let's stay with the term Batman characters. I'm looking at number six now, the term Batman characters is defined as referenced in the third-party complaint; is it not? A. That is what it says. Q. I think it would help if we pull up	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	A. No. Q. I'll represent to you that this is the third-party complaint by DC Comics Chris, you are familiar with the lawsuit, or are you not? A. I am mildly familiar with the lawsuit. Q. I'm going to refer us now to paragraph nine. Paragraph nine states certain Batman's creation in 1939, certain other related characters and other original fanciful elements have appeared in the Batman plotlines, including but not limited to Robin aka Dick Grayson, The Riddler aka Edward Nygma, Commissioner James Gordon, Barbara Gordon aka Batgirl, Two Face, The Joker, Batman's butler Alfred, the Batmobile and the fictional city Gotham City, among many others (together, the "Batman Characters"). So I understand the Batman characters as being defined in this



1		1	
1 2	Paul Levitz	2	Paul Levitz
3	A. I believe that I understand it.	3	other related characters and other original
1		4	fanciful elements?
4	Q. So since Batman's creation in 1939,		
5	what is your understanding of that creation?	5	A. I believe it's an attempt to put a
6	A. I'm sorry. Would you repeat your	6	definitional term to the fact that there are
7	question?	7	original creative element within the stories of
8	Q. The opening phrase since Batman's	8	Batman that are characters or objects that are
9	creation in 1939?	9	distinctive and original.
10	A. Yes.	10	Q. Can you identify any fanciful
11	Q. What is your understanding of that	11	elements that is identified here?
12	phrase "Batman's creation in 1939?"	12	A. There is a list in the paragraph
13	A. I think it's plain English. Phrase	13	that includes a number of characters. I would
14	that just describes the fact that there is a	14	also say that the batcave, the batter rank, the
15	creative process that resulted in the character;	15	utility belt, and many other things, and
16	the creative property Batman and the assumption	16	villains that were introduced.
17	here is that it took place in 1939 and that is	17	Q. Bathound, would that be one?
18	probably not entirely accurate.	18	A. That certainly would be.
19	Q. Why do you think it's not entirely	19	Q. That might?
20	accurate?	20	A. Yes.
21	A. If I remembering when the detectives	21	Q. Kathy?
22	comic number 27 was first published the process	22	A. Yes.
23	probably began in late 1938.	23	Q. Batwoman?
24	Q. Do you understand the phrase?	24	A. Yes.
25	Do you understand the phrase certain	25	Q. Okay. Any other faceable (sic)
1		1	
2	Paul Levitz	2	Paul Levitz
3	element that you can think of?	3	what is your understanding of that term?
4	A. We could probably sit here for the	4	A. The original character as had a
5	next hour trying to remember all of the	5	secret identity as Dick Grayson.
6	different elements of the process. If you're	6	Q. What is the next one Riddler, what
7	talking about the property as it's extended	7	is your understanding of that character?
8	overall of these years.	8	A. Dylan who taunted Batman by offering
9	Q. Right now we are just looking at	9	difficult to solve right isles that was accused
10	1939?	10	of the crimes that he was about to commit.
11	A. 1939, you have doctor dead, if your	11	Q. And the commission of James Gordon;
12	so specific to 1939 most of these element have	12	what is your definition of it?
13	not appeared yet, that are a numerated here.	13	A. Circumstance lying the police force
14	Q. Well, was Robin?	14	in 1939 and in many Batman stories thereafter.
15	A. No.	15	Q. Barbara Gordon, bat girl; what is
16	Q. Was he created in 1939?	16	your understanding of that?
17	A. He may have been created at the very	17	A. That character was in 1968 roughly
18	end 1939, but he was not published until 1940.	18	as the daughters of the commission of Gordon,
19	Q. And Miller?	19	she was the Liberian who sort of had a crush on
20	A. 1940, somewhere.	20	Batman and took on the identity of bat girl.
21	Q. And Mr. Gordon?	21	Q. And the term Joker, two phase, I'm
22	A. The original story, and if your	22	skipping.
	ANALOGO PER CONTRACTOR AND A STRUCK WITH HIGH.	14 7	What is the understanding of the
2.4			
23	defining that as 1939 let's stick with that.	23	What is the understanding of the
24	Q. Let's go through them one at a time.	24	Joker, what is your understanding of that term?



1		1	
2	Paul Levitz	2	Paul Levitz
3	1940.	3	understand that the Batman was a Batman
4	Q. And Batman, Alfred, where did that	4	character as well that can be added to the
5	come from?	5	A. I didn't hear you clearly.
6	A. He was introduced in the Batman	6	Q. Is a Batman, Batman that can be
7	stories, I believe in 1941, and then	7	added to this list, in paragraph nine?
8	significantly modified after the first Batman	8	A. Sure.
9	serial, but normally known Aspen any worth in	9	Q. How would you describe the Batman
10	the William family Butler.	10	character?
11	Q. The term Batman mobile. What is	11	A. The most typical Batman stories. He
12	your understanding of the bat mobile?	12	is a boy named Bruce Wayne, who had seen his
13	A. The distinctive car that the Batman	13	parents get murdered when he was a child and has
14	operates which the visual has changed over the	14	sworn he didn't see the murder by elevating in
15	years but it always had some level of unique	15	that City of Gotham; and is inspired by putting
16	design element that identify it as a bat mobile,	16	on the mask and becoming Batman.
17	either a batt head, hood element or other	17	Q. And did the Batman character is an
18	features like that.	18	original creation?
19	Q. Any other features?	19	A. As original as anything gets.
20	A. I'm sorry.	20	Q. Who created him?
21	Q. What other features?	21	A. The original Batman stories are by
22	A. It's very, very much from decade to	22	Bob Kane and Bill Sienkiewicz.
23	decade. Distinctive, the tail changed at one	23	Q. Who is Bob Kane?
24	point or another, things that are of Batman.	24	A. Bob Kane was born Robert Kane in New
25	Q. And I assume that you would	25	York City in the early part of the 20th century.
1		1	
2	Paul Levitz	2	Paul Levitz
3	I wouldn't remember the date offhand. But I	3	graduate of the same high school, I think older
4	would guess around 1920.	4	than Bob, somewhat a professional writer
5	He was one of the earliest	5	already. He began working as the ghost writer
6	cartoonist in the nations field of comic books	6	for Bob Kane on the earlier stories, none to the
7	in the 1930s. Predominantly a cartoonist.	7	others and the industry from the beginning.
8	He did some work for the DCs	8	Q. Is it your opinion or you would say
9	predecessors and interest and acquired his fame	9	that Bill or Bob Kane would come together from
10	and his success with the creation of Batman and	10	the Batman in 1938?
11	it's publication starting in 1939.	11	A. Yes.
12	Q. And so earlier I think that you made	12	Q. All right. And what makes the
13	a reference to Batman being created roughly in	13	Batman original?
14	1938 is that a reference to Bob Kane's creation	14	MR. WEINBERGER: Objection.
15	of that man, or would you say that Bob Kane	15	A. My view of that as a Bill
16	created that man in 1938?	16	Sienkiewicz, is that the combination of element
17	A. I think Bob Kane and Bill	17	visually and from the story standpoint added up
18	Sienkiewicz began the creation of 1938 given	18	to original character.
19	what the publication dates are.	19	Q. And I have to break them down, are
20	Q. Who is Bill Finger?	20	you referring to the distinct and visual
21	A. When Bob Kane presented the original	21	features?
22	rough sketch for Batman to the editor what would	22	A. Combination of distinctive and
23	be DC Comics he didn't have a story behind that.	23	visual and he progressively becomes more
24	And the editor man Vincent Sullivan, said go out	24	original overtime as more and more things are



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and get a writer to work and Bob was a fellow

added and are making them more distinguishable

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2	Paul Levitz	2	Paul Levitz
3	affixed amount and in lieu of the full	3	before we move on. So the first three
4	extension.	4	paragraphs there?
5	Q. And was there hesitant to provide a	5	A. Okay.
6	full extension that you recall?	6	Q. You have gotten to the bottom of the
7	A. I don't know if I would describe it	7	page, correct?
8	as hesitance, but it was a negotiated solution	8	A. Yes. It's pretty straight forward.
9	from a request from people. The companies sure	9	Q. So do you have any reason why
10	try and pay less if they can.	10	Deborah Kane's signature isn't on the document?
11	Q. What was the position of Debra Kane	11	A. Since I haven't seen the document. I
12	and Elizabeth Kane as to why they deserve more?	12	have no idea. I know she agreed to the deal.
13	Objection.	13	Q. You know that Deborah Kane agreed to
14	A. I was not present for the	14	the deal?
15	discussion, but I assume it produced itself to	15	A. Yes, it may have been done encounter
16	Batman is wonderful, Batman is making you	16	parts, or something like that.
17	billions of dollars and give us money.	17	MR. PARKER: There is another
18	Q. On what grounds do they think they	18	version of this document produced with
19	deserve money?	19	her signature. I would ask that you
20	A. The success of Batman and it being	20	produce that.
21	based on Bob Kane's initial idea.	21	MR. WEINBERGER: If you can go to the
22	Q. Initial idea, or initial creation?	22	next page. There you go. It's already
23	A. I don't know if there is a	23	produced.
24	difference between the two.	24	Q. Okay. This is the first time, I'm
25	Q. So I'll let you read the letter	25	looking at the paragraph that begins, "that you
1		1	
2	Paul Levitz	2	Paul Levitz
3	each knowledge that the Batman property, and	3	MR. WEINBERGER: Objection to the
4	I'll copyrights trademarks read the paragraph.	4	extent it requires the witness to reveal
5	You each knowledge that the Batman	5	the substance of any attorney-client
6	property, and all copyrights, trademarks, and	6	communication privilege that may have to
7	all other rights therein are owned solely and	7	the extent that he can recall.
8	exclusively by DC.	8	If you can otherwise answer the
9	You can further acknowledge that all	9	question, go ahead.
10	work rendered by Kane with respect to the Batman	10	A. Since I didn't participate in the
11	property was rendered by DC, or as an employee	11	drafting, I assume that it's a different lawyer
12	for DC, pursuant to a written work for hire	12	doing it, and again, trying for belt and
13	agreement with DC; and or at the instance and	13	suspenders.
14	expense and under the supervision and control of	14	Q. And so let's look at the next

for DC, pursuant to a written work for hire agreement with DC; and or at the instance and expense and under the supervision and control of DC; and therefore as work made for hire for DC, and that neither of you as the successor or interest to Kane have any copyright interest in the Batman property whatsoever.

Is that an accurate reading of that

Is that an accurate reading of that paragraph?

A. I think so.

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Q. And so this is the first time we've seen work for higher language in this agreement.

Is there a reason that the work for higher language is included here?

MR. WEINBERGER: The same objection. To the extent it requires the witness not to reveal the substance of attorney client communication, to the extent that

Further, if you each agree, that if

contributions to Batman's property are deemed

granted all rights from copyrights Kane to DC?

and to the extent that any of Kane's

not to be works for hire for DC. You

acknowledge this is the first time we see a

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paragraph.

Paul Levitz you can answer the question, go ahead? A. It became conventional at some point that includes just in case deemed to be a work for hire, then you agree to assign everything to Q. So you will agree there is no assignment of rights from Bob Kane to --A. I'm sorry. There was no need for assignment of rights because everything was done at DCs instance and expense. Kane had nothing to assign. Q. Does DC Comics have policy and procedures for accepting proposed materials from freelance writers? A. From time to time DC has had policies and procedures that have varied over the decades. Q. Okay. And it's from 1989 until 1993, or '94, was their policies and procedures for freelance writing? A. Generally speaking. Q. What was that policy? A. Generally the procedure was they Paul Levitz taught? A. That can take the rest of the afternoon. If you're asking specifically --

Paul Levitz
unsolicited material from people that we don't
know or we have not worked with was returned
unread. I think that was already a policy by
that time.

If work was submitted by someone who the edit knew, or had reason to believe, it can make interesting contribution then it might be read and evaluated.

- Q. Was the policy written down anywhere?
 - A. No, not that I'm aware of.
- Q. Why not?
 - A. We didn't write down a lot of stuff.
 - Q. Well, why not?
 - A. Lazy.
- Q. How was the policy communicated?
- A. I'm sorry, can you repeat that.
- Q. How was the policy communicated?
- A. When people become members of the editorial staff they were taught on how to behave as an editor.
 - Q. And how were they taught how to behave? What type of behaviors were they

Q. With respect to unsolicited material, how is there a policy for them to behave?

A. There is a pile of stuff that has come in from people please fill out the form letter, thanks for playing our game now go away; that was generally a very curete exercise for a young editorial person.

Q. What do you mean by that?

A. I mean that there would be a pile of material much of it which was sent in on a very amateurish level; and having to sit there and stuff it into envelops, and feeling guilty that you weren't taking the time to read it, and didn't have the time to spend any time on it, and generally it was a very hard task for young staffers

Q. And the authority to review, unsolicited material from people was left to the editor in charge of whatever a particular

Paul Levitz

comment was solicited for; is that accurate?

A. Broadly during the period that you're talking about the editor was primarily responsible.

If you're talking about specifically Batman, which I've understood that we are focused on here; the decision also might have been restricted to what is in terms of the group editor who was principle responsible for Batman and Danny O'Neil during the period.

- Q. I'm sorry, who?
- A. Danny O'Neil.
- Q. Did the editors have any guideline at DC Comics for the content as to what would be acceptable, and what would not be acceptable for publications?
- A. Many guidelines relevant to that. It varied with the different property, or the character.
- Q. And let's stick with Batman.
 And so I guess that we are talking about 1990, and it's my understanding that Archie Goodwin was an editor at that time; is



1 1 2 Paul Levitz 2 Paul Levitz 3 3 that accurate? Q. And part of the guidelines how does 4 A. Yes, he was mentioned in one of the that work? I assume this is a physical document 4 5 5 that the group editors and the editors have titles. 6 6 Q. What was Archie's position? access too? A. Archie was, at that time, probably 7 7 A. No, written documents. Q. Or was it communicated to the 8 was listed as a group editor. He was one of the 8 9 most senior editorial group staffed editors that 9 different writers? 10 we've had; extradinarly talented and experienced 10 A. No. 11 Q. Sir, can you describe for me the 11 editor and writer. 12 12 process by which freelance writers submitted Q. So Archie had a set of guidelines 13 that you've followed in terms of the content 13 work for publication to DC Comics specifically 14 that you are looking for? 14 Batman stories during this time frame from 1989 15 15 Or did he kind of trust them to until 1983? 16 determine what should be published and what 16 MR. WEINBERGER: Objection. 17 should not be published? 17 A. There is no process for them to 18 A. It's a broad guidelines that is 18 submit work, that is now the process of how 19 applicable to all of the editors working on 19 freelance writers work. If you look at the 20 superhero material that Archie would have fallen 20 Batman books in specific, there were probably 21 21 under. three Batman titles being published in any given 22 Beyond that the more specific stuff 22 month; and the specific writer would be assigned 23 23 would've been more stylistically up to him and to them usually in a year or multi year in a 24 24 additionally, provided some guidelines that we period of time, and that writer would have a 25 were attended to. 25 conversation with the editors or the subsidiary 1 1 2 2 Paul Levitz Paul Levitz 3 3 editors of what they intend to do. Q. What do you mean? And they would say yes or no, and A. That is assignment. You have a 4 4 5 5 why don't you try and go back and forth, script, who is going to do it. It's not 6 6 whatever the case maybe. somebody comes up and say I like to do four 7 It was a little different with 7 issues of the Dark Knight as a penciller or an 8 8 Archie, who was editing a title called Legends issues of Batman, the editor assigns the work. 9 9 Q. How it worked by the writer of the Dark Night, which it did not have a 10 single writer on a regular basis. And then I 10 submitted at that time and I know that you 11 would assume, that the writer would come in and 11 talked about it together, were they always in 12 12 say I would come in and say have an art for the same room, or was it sometimes submitted by 13 legends, and we'll talk about it a little at 13 mail? 14 length for what we had in mind. 14 A. The vast majority of time in those 15 And then it's possible that they 15 years it was in person, probably with some of 16 have a two or three paragraph written of what 16 the writers who is more geographically distance 17 17 their thoughts were what they might share with in the phone conversation, if you're talking 18 Archie, and Archie would say that is great, and 18 about the initial plot ideas. 19 here is a contract and go and do it or no, I'm 19 Q. Are you aware of Archie Goodwin keep 20 20 the non-soliciting material from a freelance not interested in that. Q. Does the same process for the pencil 21 21 writer?

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Q. Yes?

A. No.

or inker, or someone doing graphic material

A. No, there is no submission process

verse written materials?

for that.

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A. For legends of the Dark Knight?

Q. For any other publication?

1		1	
2	Paul Levitz	2	Paul Levitz
3	A. In the course of his career,	3	underlining property is owned Paramount
4	certainly.	4	Pictures, or whatever the hell they call
5	Q. Okay. I'm going to share my screen	5	themselves this week, Paramount Global.
6	and enter this as an exhibit.	6	Q. So you would not sue my client for
7	Q. So let's mark this as exhibit ten	7	trademark and infringement in this particular
8	for the record.	8	case, even if you did own this work, or if you
9	(Whereupon, Exhibit ten was marked	9	did own the copyrights for these characters,
	for the record.)	10	would you be inclined to sue someone who
11	A. Sure.	11	submitted them to an editor for possible
12	Q. Paul, is this a document that you	12	publication?
10 11 12 13	have ever seen before?	13	A. I'm not sure that I understand your
14	A. Not that I recognize, but it covers	14	point.
15	one of the issues of Star Trek.	15	Q. It's a hypothetical.
16	Q. Correct. And I'll represent to you	16	So assuming that your company owns
17	this is the color that was illustrated by my	17	the copyright to these characters, these
18	client who will represent that he submitted it	18	characters are bought before let's just
19	to DC Comics, it was unsolicited, and he used	19	strike that.
20	copyright material that I've assume that the DC	20	And so, Paul, if I represent to you
21	Comics would claim ownership within?	21	that my client submitted this concept to an
22	A. No.	22	editor at DC Comics for publication,
23	MR. WEINBERGER: Objection.	23	unsolicited, and then DC Comics went to publish
24	Q. Is Star Trek not a DC Comics title?	24	this content, would you have reason to doubt me?
25	A. The comic is a DC Comics titled, the	25	A. I assume that your an honest man,
	,		,
1		1	
2	Paul Levitz	2	Paul Levitz
3	and I assume that you're telling the truth as an	3	know who the other person depicted there is.
4	officer of the court.	4	Q. When you say, "the spectre part of
5	Q. And is this an uncommon occurrence	5	it," you are referring to the face; is that
6	at DC Comics where someone would unsolicited it,	6	accurate?
7	and create contents, and try and sell it to	7	A 37
8			A. Yes.
9	editors at DC Comics?	8	A. Yes. Q. And I'll submit to you, that this is
_	editors at DC Comics? A. It was a relatively rare occurrence	8	
10	A. It was a relatively rare occurrence for cover art work for comics, but it came in		Q. And I'll submit to you, that this is
10 11	A. It was a relatively rare occurrence	9	Q. And I'll submit to you, that this is also a process created by my client unsolicited,
10 11 12	A. It was a relatively rare occurrence for cover art work for comics, but it came in the 1990's period that you're talking about, it would happen occasionally, it was an	9	Q. And I'll submit to you, that this is also a process created by my client unsolicited, and submitted to DC Comics for publication and
10 11 12 13	A. It was a relatively rare occurrence for cover art work for comics, but it came in the 1990's period that you're talking about, it would happen occasionally, it was an extraordinarily rear or nonexistence process	9 10 11	Q. And I'll submit to you, that this is also a process created by my client unsolicited, and submitted to DC Comics for publication and was accepted by publication.
10 11 12	A. It was a relatively rare occurrence for cover art work for comics, but it came in the 1990's period that you're talking about, it would happen occasionally, it was an	9 10 11 12	Q. And I'll submit to you, that this is also a process created by my client unsolicited, and submitted to DC Comics for publication and was accepted by publication. Do you have any reason to doubt
10 11 12 13 14 15	A. It was a relatively rare occurrence for cover art work for comics, but it came in the 1990's period that you're talking about, it would happen occasionally, it was an extraordinarily rear or nonexistence process	9 10 11 12 13	Q. And I'll submit to you, that this is also a process created by my client unsolicited, and submitted to DC Comics for publication and was accepted by publication. Do you have any reason to doubt that?
10 11 12 13 14 15 16	A. It was a relatively rare occurrence for cover art work for comics, but it came in the 1990's period that you're talking about, it would happen occasionally, it was an extraordinarily rear or nonexistence process with the stories of art work with the interior	9 10 11 12 13 14	Q. And I'll submit to you, that this is also a process created by my client unsolicited, and submitted to DC Comics for publication and was accepted by publication. Do you have any reason to doubt that? MR. WEINBERGER: Objection.
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10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	A. It was a relatively rare occurrence for cover art work for comics, but it came in the 1990's period that you're talking about, it would happen occasionally, it was an extraordinarily rear or nonexistence process with the stories of art work with the interior of comics. Q. Is this a document that you have ever seen before? A. Again, I don't recall this, I'll assume that this is a public issues of Spectre. Q. What is an Spectre? A. Spectre it's a comic back to 1940 or so, a ghostly superhero.	9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q. And I'll submit to you, that this is also a process created by my client unsolicited, and submitted to DC Comics for publication and was accepted by publication. Do you have any reason to doubt that? MR. WEINBERGER: Objection. A. It would be very, very rare for that to happen on a book like a spectre so I do doubt but it is possible. Q. Would my client have been suing for using this particular image or creating this image of the spectre. A. If your client had done anything with it to commercialize it, other than with us
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	A. It was a relatively rare occurrence for cover art work for comics, but it came in the 1990's period that you're talking about, it would happen occasionally, it was an extraordinarily rear or nonexistence process with the stories of art work with the interior of comics. Q. Is this a document that you have ever seen before? A. Again, I don't recall this, I'll assume that this is a public issues of Spectre. Q. What is an Spectre? A. Spectre it's a comic back to 1940 or so, a ghostly superhero. Q. And is this image of a character	9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Q. And I'll submit to you, that this is also a process created by my client unsolicited, and submitted to DC Comics for publication and was accepted by publication. Do you have any reason to doubt that? MR. WEINBERGER: Objection. A. It would be very, very rare for that to happen on a book like a spectre so I do doubt but it is possible. Q. Would my client have been suing for using this particular image or creating this image of the spectre. A. If your client had done anything with it to commercialize it, other than with us he would've probably been sued or at least sent
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	A. It was a relatively rare occurrence for cover art work for comics, but it came in the 1990's period that you're talking about, it would happen occasionally, it was an extraordinarily rear or nonexistence process with the stories of art work with the interior of comics. Q. Is this a document that you have ever seen before? A. Again, I don't recall this, I'll assume that this is a public issues of Spectre. Q. What is an Spectre? A. Spectre it's a comic back to 1940 or so, a ghostly superhero.	9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q. And I'll submit to you, that this is also a process created by my client unsolicited, and submitted to DC Comics for publication and was accepted by publication. Do you have any reason to doubt that? MR. WEINBERGER: Objection. A. It would be very, very rare for that to happen on a book like a spectre so I do doubt but it is possible. Q. Would my client have been suing for using this particular image or creating this image of the spectre. A. If your client had done anything with it to commercialize it, other than with us